

Joe Kennedy III Remembers JFK at Birth Centennial Stamp Ceremony

On President's Day, February 20, Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan dedicated the Forever stamp commemorating the centennial of the birth of John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States. The ceremony took place at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston to kick off the 6th Annual Presidents Day Family Festival. Kennedy was born May 29, 1917.

As the FDOI was held on the holiday when Post Offices were closed, the stamps went on sale nationwide on February 21, thereby FDOI commercial uses very scarce.

The stamp features a 1960 photograph by Ted Spiegel of Kennedy campaigning for president in Seattle. Kennedy himself used the image as a signing portrait as president, and Bobby Kennedy claimed the image as his favorite portrait of his older brother. It's also continues to be used in promotional images for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

The artwork accompanying the stamp, showing Kennedy in a reflective pose, is a 1970 oil painting by Aaron Shikler (courtesy of the White House / White House Historical Association).

"Today, representing the 640,000 men and women of the United States Postal Service, I can tell you that the spirit of public service remains as vital as when President Kennedy elevated the ideal in his moving and eloquent inaugural address," said Brennan. "He dignified and gave voice to the pride in serving the nation that every postal employee feels. It is for this reason that the Postal Service takes special pride in honoring President Kennedy today."

Joining Brennan in the dedication were Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA); Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA); John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Executive Director Steven Rothstein; and stamp image photographer Ted Spiegel. John F. Kennedy Presidential



Library and Museum Acting Director James Roth served as Master of Ceremonies. John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Board member Matthew Kennedy also attended the ceremony.

"In the American people he served, President Kennedy discovered a fearless optimism and extraordinary empathy. Despite divisions and differences, he believed every citizen shared an unbreakable, common bond to push an imperfect country towards justice and progress. This stamp will not only commemorate the centennial of his birth, but the values that make this country strong, fair and kind," said Congressman Kennedy.



Representative Joe Kennedy III, grandson of Robert Kennedy, addresses the audience at the JFK stamp First Day Ceremony



Congressman Kennedy in the post-ceremony autograph session